

Appl. No. 10/615,996
Amtd. Dated March 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0278
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8 and 10 are being amended to improve their form. No new matter is involved.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the claim depends from apparatus claim 8 but the preamble thereof refers to a method. Applicants are amending claim 10 so that it recites "An apparatus according to claim 8" instead of "A method according to claim 8".

Beginning at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,842,414 of Park in view of U.S. Patent 4,730,294 of Funada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a tilt control method for controlling the tilt, with respect to an optical disc, of an objective lens in an optical pickup, and to control apparatus for an optical pickup for performing recording or playback of signals by emitting light onto an optical disc from an objective lens. In accordance with a principal feature of the present invention, a DC voltage is obtained based on a recording or playback position. Such voltage is added to an AC signal. The DC voltage value depends on the recording or playback position.

In the Funada reference, a DC component of an error signal that is not changed in accordance with a position of a recording or playback is detected. The purpose of Funada is to compensate for a DC offset component in an error signal. In contrast, the DC value of the present invention represents the relationship between

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positions of a pickup and a disc based on a focusing signal. Thus, the purpose of the present invention is completely different from that of Funada.

Claim 1 as amended is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited references. As amended, the tilt control method of claim 1 includes the limitation "detecting a recording or playback position to obtain a corresponding DC voltage value during recording or playback of signals to or from said optical disc". Again, the cited references and the attempted combination thereof do not disclose or suggest such feature in accordance with the invention.

Claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly from, and further define claim 1, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited references.

As amended, the control apparatus of claim 8 includes the limitation "means for providing a DC voltage value corresponding to the detected recording or playback position". Therefore, claim 8 is also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art. Similar comments apply to claims 9 and 10 which depend from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1.

In conclusion, claims 1-10 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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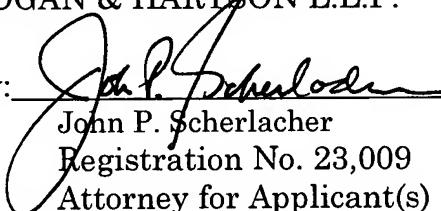
Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 27, 2006

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